

August 1, 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW, Room CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: *Application of SBC, Pursuant to Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for Authorization To Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin, WC Docket No. 03-167*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is to express our support for SBC's application to offer long distance service in Wisconsin. The Southeastern Wisconsin Area Agency on Aging, a private nonprofit agency, assists seniors (60+) to link to services that help them to remain living independently in the community while facing the many obstacles that arise with living on a limited income. It is important for consumers to have access to a variety of providers in order to save money through competitive pricing. SBC's ability to compete in the long distance market will afford seniors citizens more choices in their telecommunications while bringing increased competition in Wisconsin, higher quality and more innovative products and services that save consumers money.

As one of Wisconsin's well established telecommunications companies, SBC contributes to the state's economy through jobs, infrastructure investment, innovation and by offering quality telecommunications service. Opening up the long distance market will increase competition and generate significant economic benefits.

When SBC receives approval to offer long distance, Wisconsin residents and businesses will enjoy the benefits of full telecommunications competition -- lower rates, more choices, increased innovation and investment, and the opportunity to have all their telecommunications services on one bill.

We are hopeful that the Federal Communications Commission will support SBC's 271 long distance application as soon as possible in order to expand long distance options for the seniors living in southeastern Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Helen A. Ramon  
Executive Director